SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 14 JULY 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL news invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

SILENT KEYS

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing away of Harry Warr ZS1HW. Harry passed away on Monday 08 July 2002. He recently underwent a successful back operation and was convalescing at home when he developed a respiratory complication.
His wife Margaret was at his side when he passed away. A memorial service was held in St Peter's Anglican Church, Hermanus, and a cremation took place in Cape Town. The service was attended by his Amateur Radio friends from around the Cape. Harry's remains will be laid to rest at sea, according to his wish.

(PAUSE)

It is also with deepest regret that we have to announce the passing away of Garth (Willy) Wilson, on 9 July 2002. "Oom Willy", as he was known to many people, was one of the recipients of this years Radio Amateur of the Year award. "Oom Willy" was for 38 years an enthusiastic adult member of the Voortrekkers and exposed many young members to the Morse code and elementary electronics. To his daughters Ethel and Elna and son and their families go our heartfelt sympathy and condolences.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

HAMNET BULLETIN TIMES

SARL OFFICE NEWS

WRTC AND IARU HF CONTESTS THIS WEEKEND

CONTACT WITH PIONEER 10

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

Now for the news in detail:

HAMNET BULLETIN TIMES

Hamnet members are reminded that the Sunday bulletin time has been changed to 16:30 (4:30pm) local time due to propagation problems in the 30m- band. This band tends to close earlier in the winter months

SARL OFFICE NEWS

The SARL office is burdened with a few problems at the moment.
The unexpected leave taken by Marlette has caused there to be no one to see to the daily running requirements of the office. A temporary appointment has been made in the person of Ronnette de Beer, who is being shown the intricacies of running an office to cater to the needs of radio amateurs. Members are requested to have a little patience, as this is a busy period in the office with the membership renewals coming in and a large number of new applications for membership coming in as well. The council of the SARL asks that members hold any special requests back for a little while until things settle down.

All these goings on have resulted in Radio ZS being delayed for about a week. At present it is with the printers and it is scheduled to be posted during the first week of August.

As far as the QSL bureau is concerned there is a great need for volunteers to help with the sorting and posting of the cards received. The volunteers who are helping at the moment are coping with the local QSL cards but those from overseas are sadly lagging behind. Anyone staying close to the NARC and who is willing and able to help with this task is asked to contact Fritz Sutherland at cell: 083 304 0028 or at his home at 012 997 1114.

The 27th of July is going to be very busy. Not only will there be the Mega fleamarket in Pretoria as well as the gathering at the Oakdale club in the Cape but the Council of the SARL is holding a meeting at the NARC from 08:00 that day.

WRTC AND IARU HF CONTESTS THIS WEEKEND

The World Radiosport Team Championship, or WRTC, sometimes called 'the Olympic Games of Amateur Radio', is taking place in Finland over this weekend. WRTC is a competition among 52 two-person teams of the top amateur radio contest operators in the world. By bringing competitors together in one geographic area and providing equal operating conditions, including antennas and power, the variables normally associated with radio contesting are minimised, and the individual team's operating skills are emphasised.

Also look for the national teams taking part in this weekend's IARU HF Championship contest from sites in the Helsinki area and using callsigns with the unique OJ1 to OJ8 prefixes. The contest is takeing place this weekend from 1200UTC yesterday for 24 hours. Lee Volante, G0MTN, and Dave Lawley, G4BUO, are among the international team of referees headed up by Roger Western, G3SXW, to ensure fair play.

In addition to the 104 WRTC competitors, the Finnish SRAL headquarters station, OI2HQ, will be operating in the IARU contest from multiple sites, with a huge team of operators from the UK, USA, Slovenia and Ukraine as well as Finland. All QSOs will be confirmed via the bureau and stations that make at least five QSOs with OI2HQ will receive a special recognition for the performance in the contest.

CONTACT WITH PIONEER 10

This bit of interesting news was obtained from AMSAT News Service.

How's your uplink today?

When controllers made contact with Pioneer 10 at a distance greater than 7,4 billion miles they used the 70 meter dish at Goldstone, California with an uplink transmit power of 200 kW.
The Pioneer 10 spacecraft received the signal at -131,7 dBm after a transit time of about 11 hours.

The reply from Pioneer 10 was received back on Earth an additional 11 hours later. The received downlink signal strength from the spacecraft was about -183 dBm. Signal processing algorithms peaked the received signal at -178,5 dBm. Telemetry decoding of the 16 bps data stream was able to be processed at a signal-to- noise ratio of 0.5 dB. It was also detected by SETI.

So the next time you're thinking of putting off tweaking your antenna system remember you've got lots of work to do! One oldtimer told ANS, "If your antenna stayed up all winter then it wasn't big enough!"

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

For all those interested in participating in this years International Lighthouse weekend on the 17th and 18th of August, you can now find all the details you need to participate on the SARL Web. Everything from how to get permission to use your local lighthouse, to the frequencies used etc. Visit the SARL web at www.sarl.org.za for more details.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN and read by……..from . .. ..as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750 and 7082 kHz and 145,625MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays

at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.
ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

Also join the SARL President s net which is on the air at noon on Sundays on 7082 kHz.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX